

What is claimed is:

1 1. An optical switching system, comprising:
2 a signal input unit operable to input an optical packet
3 signal that includes an optical label signal converted by a direct
4 modulation method from an electric label signal that has a
5 frequency that corresponds to a destination of the optical packet
6 signal;
7 an optical-to-electrical conversion unit operable to
8 convert the optical packet signal, which has passed through an
9 optical filter that allows only signals with wavelengths within
10 a predetermined range to pass through itself, into an electric
11 signal;
12 an extracting unit operable to extract the electric label
13 signal from the electric signal;
14 an electric power level detecting unit operable to detect
15 an electric power level of the extracted electric label signal;
16 a port determining unit operable to determine, based on
17 the detected electric power level, a port to which the optical
18 packet signal is to be output; and
19 a signal output unit operable to output the optical packet
20 signal to the determined port.

1 2. An optical switching system, comprising:
2 a signal input unit operable to input an optical packet
3 signal that includes an optical label signal generated by
4 phase-modulating an optical signal based on an electric label
5 signal that has a frequency that corresponds to a destination

6 of the optical packet signal;
7 an optical-to-electrical conversion unit operable to
8 convert the optical packet signal, which has passed through an
9 optical filter that allows only signals with wavelengths within
10 a predetermined range to pass through itself, into an electric
11 signal;
12 an extracting unit operable to extract the electric label
13 signal from the electric signal;
14 an electric power level detecting unit operable to detect
15 an electric power level of the extracted electric label signal;
16 a port determining unit operable to determine, based on
17 the detected electric power level, a port to which the optical
18 packet signal is to be output; and
19 a signal output unit operable to output the optical packet
20 signal to the determined port.

1 3. The optical switching system of Claim 1, wherein
2 the electric label signal has a sinusoidal waveform.